



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

January 9, 2002

MEMORANDUM FOR: SPENCER ABRAHAM  
Secretary of the Department of Energy

FROM: JAMES CONNAUGHTON *JAC*  
Chair

SUBJECT: PRELIMINARY COMMENTS ON THE FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT  
STATEMENT FOR A GEOLOGIC REPOSITORY FOR THE DISPOSAL OF  
SPENT NUCLEAR FUEL AND HIGH-LEVEL RADIOACTIVE WASTE AT  
YUCCA MOUNTAIN, NYE COUNTY, NEVADA

CEQ has completed a preliminary review of the January 4, 2002 Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for Yucca Mountain. A more detailed review will be conducted during the thirty days period following your notification to the Governor and Legislature of Nevada.

Recognizing the Congressional mandate to focus on the Yucca Mountain site, our review indicates that your Department has met the procedural requirements set out in the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) as modified by the National Waste Policy Act by conducting an informed and open analysis of the potential decisions necessary to construct, operate and close the repository. In addition, in response to comments received on the Draft EIS, the FEIS addresses alternatives concerning transportation of materials to the repository to support broad transportation related decisions and clearly articulates an appropriate commitment to examine future specific transportation decisions in the future.

I will promptly notify you in the event our detailed review, noted above, discloses any concerns that merit your attention.